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Mountain
Outings
on the
Rainier National Forest

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COVER ILLUSTRATIONS

Front.—Mount Rainier from Sheepskill Cap
Back.—In the Rainier Country



STRADDLING the Cascades from Mount Adams north to Pyramid Peak, the Rainier National Forest is preeminently a land for mountain outings. The lakes and streams are clear and cool and stocked with trout. The virgin forests of the slopes are interspersed with open glades, grassy hillsides, and flowery meadows where feed for pack and saddle animals is abundant and wood and water is convenient for the camper. Bear and deer are common in the game country and there is good camera hunting everywhere.

In winter the depth of snow closes the Forest except to the hardy traveler who makes his journey on snowshoes. In the long, clear days of summer the Forest is a playground for both the farmer and the city dweller. Cattlemen drive their herds to the valleys, the pack trains of shepherds



Goat Rocks. Along the summit of the Cascades

follow the winding trails, and flocks graze on the bunch grass of the higher ridges. Mountain climbers scale the snowy peaks, tourists of less strenuous habits camp along the highways, fishermen follow the streams, and the bugles of the Boy Scouts echo in the mountain glen. Easily accessible in many places, the Forest still has regions, seldom visited, where the bear, elk, deer, cougar, and timber wolf are undisturbed.

Savage and primitive in many of its aspects, the Forest is nowhere barren or desolate. The slow melting of the deep winter snow feeds innumerable springs, which are the sources of clear running brooks and rapid streams that flow down every ravine and valley. Nourished by the abundant moisture, the growth of the trees and lesser plants is luxuriant and vigorous. The alpine firs and hemlocks, although stunted by the fierce winds and the severe winter cold, grow almost to the mountain tops. The larger lakes are in the deep valleys, where the streams have been blocked by the moraines of ancient glaciers. In the alpine parks high up on the summit are innumerable little pools and tarns. Their waters, open to the sun, are warm enough on the surface to swim in but very cold a few feet below it.

The mountain country of the Rainier National Forest separates the valley of the Yakima from the Puget Sound Basin and the Cowlitz watershed. The west boundary is 30 miles from tidewater at Tacoma. The east boundary is 40 miles from the city of Yakima, in the center of the most thickly populated farming country in Washington. The roads into the Forest follow the larger stream valleys, but have not yet been completed across the summit of the Cascades. The west



On the head of the Klickitat River

slope can be reached by automobile from Tacoma and Seattle over State highways along the White River, the Nisqually, and the Cowlitz. The east-slope roads are from Yakima and Ellensburg up the Tieton, Naches, and Taneum.

THE SUMMIT LINE

The summit of the Cascades, with a general elevation of 5,000 feet, is the natural division line between the dense forests of the west slopes and the open yellow-pine country of the east side. Peaks and sharp rocky crests rise abruptly from broad flattened ridges separated by low saddles. The summit trails follow the ridges and, avoiding the high broken peaks, turn east or west below the cliffs. The traveler's outlook is alternately over the eastern and western valleys. In the near distance are the snow peaks of Rainier, Adams, and St. Helens, and far away the luminous summits of Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson rise above the blue haze.

Near at hand the landscape is varied and pleasing. The trail winds through shaded woodlands of thickset hemlock and mountain fir, and comes out into broad open meadows of short green grass and many-colored flowers. Open parks alternate with woodland and everywhere are small clear lakes and pools.

From Cowlitz Pass north to the Government meadows at the head of the Greenwater and the Naches a graded trail has been built. There is abundant feed for pack and saddle animals. South



Head of the American River

from Cowlitz Pass the trails along the summit are few and poor, and the top of the Divide can be most easily reached by routes from the east or west.

Crossing to the east slope of the Cascades, the traveler enters a region where the landscape effects are very different from the dense and somber forests of the west slope. Yellow pine and tamarack take the place of fir, grass and flowers grow beneath, there is little undergrowth, and the forest floor is sunlit or checkered with shadows.

THE NACHES

For 20 miles above Yakima the valley of the Naches is broad, thickly settled, and in a high state of cultivation. Well-built farmhouses and large barns stand between apple and peach orchards and fields of corn and grain.

At the boundary of the Rainier National Forest, 40 miles from Yakima, one is well within the foothills of the Cascades. On one side is the steep rocky slope of the Menastash Ridge, on the other is the Nile Creek Divide, and between them the highway and river lead into the drainage basin of the upper Naches and its tributaries. From Green Pass south to Tumac Mountain, a distance of about 40 miles, the streams on the east slope of the summit of the Cascades flow to the Naches above the mouth of the Tieton. The headwaters of the upper or Little Naches are about Naches Pass and Pyramid Peak. American River flows into Bumping River, and Bumping River unites



Packwood Lake

with the Naches about 3 miles below. The main valleys of these three streams are the best known and most frequented parts of the watershed. South of them the Nile and the Big and Little Rattlesnake Creeks rise in the broken mountain ranges and flow easterly to the Naches.

Visitors, whether they come from the cities of Puget Sound or the farming country in the central and eastern part of the State, are impressed by the peculiar charm of the landscape. There is a great variety of trees. Yellow pine, fir, and tamarack grow on the slopes and benches

above the valley floor. The ground beneath them is free from brush and undergrowth; the woods are open so that one can ride at will over the pine-grass turf. In the river bottom hemlock and white fir mix with other species and the trees grow more closely together. Cottonwood and alder grow among the evergreens and there are long stretches of sandy or rock-strewn river bar. On the middle slopes of the dividing ridges are basalt cliffs and ledges, often columnar and fluted, with sharp lines and a clear brown or gray coloring. Everywhere open glades and meadows allow an extended outlook across the valleys to the mountain tops.

The unusual beauty of the region is due in part to the great variety of the scenery and in part to the clearness of the atmosphere. The outlines of the mountains against the sky are very sharp and distinct, and the coloring of the landscape, although soft and in harmony, is pure and clear. The weather is generally sunny but cool, and the air is invigorating.

There are three varieties of trout in the streams and lakes—rainbow, cutthroat, and Dolly Varden. The smallest but most beautiful and most active is the rainbow. The cutthroat is somewhat larger. The Dolly Varden is the largest. Generally it is rather an inferior species, but in the clear, cold water of the Naches it is a good fish.

Grouse, pheasant, deer, and bear are common. Elk were introduced a few years ago from the Yellowstone. They have increased and the young elk are often seen. Goats are not uncommon about the Fife Peaks and on Mount Aix.

The mountains about the Naches are high and often rugged and broken, but nowhere as high as Rainier, Adams, and the other snow peaks of the Cascades. There are trails by which one can reach nearly all the ridges with saddle



"Roughing it" on the Rainier

animals, and can travel for a month by himself and see something new each day. So one goes again, finding a charm in the seclusion, the diversity of the landscape, and the absence of troublesome restrictions which offsets the grander scenery, better roads, and high-priced hotels of more well-known mountain resorts.

Most people who go to the Naches, if they have time, provisions, and saddle horses, will want to travel over the whole of it. There are certain places of exceptional interest. Boulder Cave is a cavern about three-quarters of a mile south of the wagon road along the Naches. Devils Creek, as it is locally known, or Swamp Creek, as it is named on the Government maps, flows down the mountain side into the river. The trail ascends the left bank and drops down to the channel. Here the stream is hemmed in by vertical cliffs which contract and become overhanging until they unite and form a high rock roof. Out of this cave flows the stream. The banks are broad enough for one to follow the stream for some distance, far enough to be in absolute darkness.

On the Bumping River road about 7 miles above the mouth of American River are Soda Springs, supposed to have some medicinal properties.



Good Fishing on the Naches



Near Gold Creek Recreation Grounds

Bumping Lake affords opportunities for boating, and the water is warm enough to swim in.

One of the finest trips with horses is up the American River to Bear Gap, south along the main summit of the Cascades to Carleton Pass, and thence down the Bumping River. Along the summit the trail offers a succession of extended outlooks both over the eastern slopes of the Cascades and west to the snow fields of Mount Rainier. This trip brings one into some of the most beautiful scenery in the high Cascades, but it requires at least a week's time. It should not be undertaken until toward the middle of August, on account of the snow. Automobile trips can now be made as far as Bumping Lake. A tent hotel is kept at the mouth of American River. Board and lodging are good and there is very fair trout fishing in the vicinity.

The varied attractions of the Naches have created a demand for summer homes on the Forest. A number of cottages have been built about Gold Creek and along the Naches above it. The usual rates charged by the Government for the use of summer-home sites in the vicinity are from \$10 to \$15 a year, according



Near Boulder Cave Camp Ground. Naches River, along McClellan Pass Highway



A harmony of green fields, forest, and mountain rock



Planning a summer home in the Rainier National Forest

to location. Sites are usually selected where pure water can be obtained from brooks or springs. Sanitary precautions are required and strictly enforced.

WHITE RIVER AND THE McCLELLAN PASS HIGHWAY

In 1853 the first wagon road was built from the Yakima country across the mountains to Puget Sound. At that time an almost unbroken forest lay between the Sound and the settlement on the Willamette. There were deep and rapid streams to be crossed, great logs blocked the way for wagons, and dense undergrowth, usually wet with rain, added to the discomforts, trials, and hardships to which the most resolute pioneers hesitated to expose their families. East of the mountains the country was open and there was abundant grass for the oxen and horses of the immigrants, but by this route the Cascades lay between them and Puget Sound. At The Dalles was the parting of the ways. Here the immigrants turned north to the Yakima Valley, and going up the valley of the Naches crossed the Cascades and came down the Greenwater.

The narrow road they cut is still plain where it ascended the east slope to the top of the divide. West of the summit, where growth and decay of the forest are both more rapid, fallen timber and dense undergrowth have covered nearly every trace of the toil of the pioneers. Here and there is a tree girdled for the ropes by which they kept their wagons from rolling down the steeper slopes, and sometimes an old blaze, nearly covered by the growth of the wood, can be distinguished from more recent ax marks. There is little else left to mark what was first the immigrants' road to



"Yes, just enough for supper"

the south and, in the Indian wars a little later, the pathways used by the soldiers and the scouts and war parties of their savage opponents.

The McClellan Pass Highway, built by the Forest Service and the State, is completed as far as The Dalles of White River and is now being extended farther. The greater part of the road from Enumclaw is through a dense forest through which, owing to the excellent condition of the road, the traveler by automobile passes very quickly. The timber is very tall and dense, with few openings except where the road runs close to the river bank and affords views of long stretches of river bar and swift-running stream. Farther along, the valley becomes narrower and the inclosing ridges are higher and steeper and broken by cliffs and ledges.

Where the highway crosses Silver Creek just above its junction with White River several people have made summer homes on tracts leased from the Forest Service. A number of other sites have been surveyed and applied for. The sources of Silver Creek are streams rising in Bear Gap and in springs and lakes on the high open ridge known as Crystal Mountain. Silver Creek flows through a game country where bear and deer are common and the mountain goat is still seen. It was given its name by the first trappers on account of the succession of silvery white falls and cascades which alternate with deep pools in its lower courses.

The region beyond the present end of the road and the top of the divide is made up of short rough spurs diverging from the summit and of the canyons of the deep stream valleys. The summit itself and the top of the ridge is mostly an open park country, with patches of alpine woodland separated by grassy meadows.



Mount Adams and heavy timber of west slope

The best fishing is in the Greenwater and its tributaries. Echo Lake, the largest in the district, is about half a mile wide and nearly a mile long. It was formed by the débris left by the ancient glacier. The outlet, unlike that of most glacial lakes, is hemmed in by high rock walls. Fishing is not allowed in Echo Lake. Farther down the stream are the lower Greenwater lakes. They are about half a mile apart and cover several acres each. One of them is remarkable for the clearness of the water, which is so pellucid that the bottom in the center, at a depth of 15 or 20 feet, is almost as distinct as it is close to the banks, only a few inches below the surface. The lake is very cold and is probably fed by springs as well as by the inlet. The lower Greenwater lakes are full of trout; but, perhaps on account of the clearness of the water, they are not easily taken.

The Government meadows are a succession of great open meadows on the summit of Naches Pass. Very often they are wrapped in fog, but when the sun shines they are bright and beautiful with luxuriant green grass and flowers of many colors. It was at this place that Klickitat warriors camped when they crossed from the Yakima country to assist the Leschi and Sound Indians in the Indian uprisings.

The trail to the pass from the Naches has been relocated and repaired. From the summit east to the wagon road on the Naches is an easy day's journey on foot or horseback.

THE NISQUALLY AND THE NATIONAL PARK HIGHWAY

The National Park Highway from Tacoma to the Mount Rainier National Park (about 45 miles) follows the Nisqually River in the National Forest for 3 miles. There is a hotel on the

highway where accommodations can be obtained not far from the National Forest boundary. Rainbow trout weighing from 1 to 2 pounds are caught in Berry Creek. One of the most beautiful places in the Forest is about Mount Bel and Lake Christine. It is a high mountain region with many small clear lakes and little alpine meadows. A fairly good trail has been built north from the Nisqually to the Carbon Valley. It crosses the Mowiche and the Puyallup and the high dividing ridges between them. This part of the Forest is heavily timbered. There is little travel over the trail except during the hunting season.

Ashford, on the Tacoma & Eastern Railroad, is on the Nisqually 3 miles from the National Forest line. The same distance from the Forest in the Carbon River Valley is Fairfax on the Northern Pacific.

THE COWLITZ VALLEY

The Cowlitz Valley, the Cispus, and the Chain of Lakes country about the west slope of Mount Adams are tributary to the National Park Highway and the State Road up the Cowlitz. Morton is about three hours distant by rail over the Tacoma & Eastern Railroad from Tacoma. Stages from Tacoma make two trips daily during the summer. Randle, in the Cowlitz Valley on the edge of the Forest, is 20 miles from Morton. The village of Lewis, 18 miles east, is in the upper end of the valley. A system of graded trails and telephones has been built from Lewis into the mountain ranges about.

To the north and west the trail follows Skate Creek to Longmire Springs.

Seven miles south from Lewis is Packwood Lake, 2 miles long, very deep, and with a water surface of 900 acres. It is a glacial lake lying between high spurs of the Goat Rocks at an elevation of 2,800 feet. Trout are abundant. On some days they are shy and reluctant to take either bait or fly, but on others they bite readily.

East from Lewis the main trail is to Cowlitz Pass. One branch turns north along the summit to Fish Lake and Carleton Pass at the head of Bumping River. The other continues east to the Tieton Basin and the wagon roads to Naches and Yakima. The Ohanepecosh Hot Springs in the upper Cowlitz are 14 miles from Lewis by a trail connecting with the main route up the valley.

MOUNT ADAMS AND THE CHAIN OF LAKES

South to Mount Adams trails lead to an interesting and comparatively little known country. Fourteen miles of uphill travel from Lewis, through heavy timber, are the open burns and woodlands known as the Berry Patch country. Close by are the Goat Rock Peaks and the glaciers and snow field between them. The trail turning south into the watershed of the Cispus follows benches and table-lands to the Chain of Lakes country at the foot of the west slope of Mount Adams. This region is comparatively level. It is frequented in August and September by many Indians, who make annual pilgrimages to it from the Yakima Indian Reservation and the Warm Springs Agency. The women and children gather and dry huckleberries, which grow in great profusion. Each family brings many horses and dogs and all enjoy the opportunity for social intercourse and reversion to the primitive life and customs of a former generation.

From the Chain of Lakes trails to the south of Mount Adams cross the Indian Reservation and lead to Glenwood and Trout Lake. Other trails to the south and west bring the traveler back by way of the Cispus to the settlements in the Cowlitz.

THE TANEUM

The Taneum district is separated from the rest of the Forest by high divides seldom crossed except by stockmen and rangers. In the lower Taneum Valley is a public camp ground for people from Ellensburg and the smaller towns in the vicinity. At the Mall Camp Grounds special provision has been made for the comfort and convenience of automobile parties.

The road from the Yakima Valley to this district follows Taneum Creek past the Wilson Ranger Station to a point about 1 mile up the South Fork of Taneum Creek. A trail leads off near the forks of Taneum Creek, connecting with a trail along the main divide between the Yakima and Naches drainages.

TIETON BASIN

Above Rimrock on the Tieton the canyon broadens into a wide basin surrounded by high mountains. The central part of the basin is occupied by the site of a large storage reservoir and will be flooded as soon as the dam, now under construction, is completed. The basin is about three hours' drive by automobile from Yakima. There is excellent fishing in the South Fork of the Tieton and in Clear Creek.

RAINIER NATIONAL FOREST

1. Mount Rainier	10,000	10,000
2. Mount Adams	12,000	12,000
3. Mount Baker	14,000	14,000
4. Mount Hood	16,000	16,000
5. Mount Jefferson	18,000	18,000
6. Mount St. Helens	20,000	20,000
7. Mount Tahoma	22,000	22,000
8. Mount Rainier	24,000	24,000
9. Mount Adams	26,000	26,000
10. Mount Baker	28,000	28,000



McElliott Pass Highway, White River and Greenwater

Tacoma to Enumclaw by road via Auburn	38
Enumclaw to mouth of Greenwater by road	19
Mouth of Greenwater to Silver Creek Camp Ground by road	15
TACOMA AND NATIONAL PARK HIGHWAY	
Tacoma to Ashford by road	53
Ashford to Longmire Springs by road	13
Longmire Springs to Paradise Valley by road	14
Tacoma to Morton by road	62
Morton to Tower Rock by road	10
Morton to Randle by road	20
Randle to Lewis by road	18
Lewis to Longmire Springs by trail	16
COWLITZ VALLEY TRAILS	
Lewis to Packwood Lake by trail	7
Lewis to the Ohanapocosh Hot Springs by trail	13
Lewis to Summit of Cowlitz Pass	18
Lewis to Fish Lake in Corleton Pass by trail	27
Lewis to the Berry Patch by trail	16
Berry Patch to the Goat Rocks Snowgrass Flats by trail	7
Berry Patch to the Chain of Lakes by trail	18
YAKIMA AND ELLENSBURG	
Yakima to Naches by road	16
Yakima to Gold Creek by road	424
Yakima to mouth of American River by road	513
Yakima to Bumping Lake by road	63
Bumping Lake to Fish Lake in Corleton Pass by trail	11
Yakima to Rimrock by road	42
Yakima to Clear Creek Dam by road	50
Yakima to Indian Creek by road	49
Indian Creek to Cowlitz Pass by trail	10
Yakima to Antoneum Ranger Station by road	32
Ellensburg to Taneum Camp Grounds by road	19
Thorp to Taneum Camp Grounds by road	12

RAINIER NATIONAL FOREST

LEGEND

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| — Auto Road | M Meals and Lodging |
| ----- Secondary Road | G Garage |
| --- Trail | O Oil and Gasoline |
| ▲ Hotel | H Huckleberry Patch |
| ▲ Public Camp Ground | P Packer or Guide |
| ▲ Fire Lookout | F Horse Feed |
| S Store | |

Scale 0 1 2 3 4 Miles

Portland, March 1920
V.H.F. and T.P.F.



